Dear Phil, 2/26/84

In all the countless hours I spent with him and the many letters we exchanged there were not many time I had reason to believe that Jimmy Ray lied to me. One story that just was not credible and one element that bears heavily on his having associates, undoubtedly in Canada, whether or not Canadians, is his bullshit about getting the names from birth notices.

In Frame-Up I print the real Walt's signature that I got in the most secret of places, the N.Y. Times. Which made no use of what it published!

After I explain its antecedents, I suggest that if you use any of the HSCA's stuff on the King assassination you begin with the lengthy memo I did under the worst of possible circumstances, which HSCA went out of its way to create, and then decide for yourself if you can believe anything originating with HSCA. It began with the preconception of Ray's guilt and refused to consider anything else, save the only really impossible theory of the conspiracy.

I kept waiting for what HSCA promised to provide, the info it claimed to be basing its theory and allegations on and I never got even the full steno transcript. They addressed those few pages to John Ray and at the wrong prison, so they were delayed in reaching him and then me. I wound up dictating off the top of the head and my wife wa tryping what I'd dictated and we did not finish until late the night before the committee's last day, when Jim Lesar delivered it without either of us having a chance to read it.

There is some dependable stuff, but it is not HSCA's. It got some of what I got from the FBI and then pretended to having done the work itself. Like the Atlanta laundry ticket. Its own work is dishonest, incompetent, inadequate, incomplete and prejudiced from the outset.

I don't know your purposes in this background research but I can probably help you if you ever get down this way. I long for enough free time to be able to get back to my writing, on this.

To make the answer a bit more explicit: it is not possible that Ray got those names from the birth notices. It is not possible that he had any independent way of getting them. Therefore, some provided them and that someone had to have some sophistication or perhaps organization to be able to do that. I know Jimmy well enough to know that there had to be someone like the man he calls "Raul."

If youknew the Rays as I do you'd agree that none of them could have conceived abd carried the assassination off and that, at least two are natural patsies and the third is the most stubborn man I've ever known. John and Jimmy did not like each other and did not even know how to get in touch with each other.

Best wishes,